

17th January

1912

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Thomas Buchanan

at Bury St

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

18th January 1912.

J. M.

H Pearson JP

Acting Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

RECEIVED
18 JAN 1912
C. L. O.

VICTORIA,
TO WIT. }

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lord King Edward, taken at

Burnside in
Victoria, the *17th* day of *January*
A.D. 1912 in the *second* year of the Reign

of our said Lord the King, before *Charles Pearson Esquire a Justice of the Peace for the Central Bailiwick of the State of Victoria requested by Leonard George Amie Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King hold an inquest into the death of Thomas Buchanan for Victoria* upon the view of the body of *Thomas Buchanan* then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of¹

(1) Jurors' Christian and surnames in full.

[Large scribbled-out area covering the juror names and oaths section]

good and lawful men of _____ in Victoria,
who being duly sworn and charged to inquire, upon the part of our Lord the
ask King, when, where, how, and by what means the said *Thomas*
Buchanan came by² *his* death, do say upon their

(2) His or her.

(3) Here state cause of death if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly, using the words of the verdict of the Jury.

oath that³ That the deceased Thomas Buchanan on the 10th day of January 1912 at Labretouche committed suicide whilst of unsound mind by manipulation

Chas Pearson J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Ernest Henry John Beck

on h oath saith, I am a Licensed Auctioneer

residing at Longway

* Christian and Surname in full.

I know the deceased Thomas Buchanan I have known him about sixteen years. He came to my place on the last occasion was the 16th December & left on the 5th January, during that time he was drinking the whole of the time, I tried to get him to leave the Hotel on two occasions I drove him home, while he was at my house, he gave me a Bank order from £61-10-1, It was a Canadian draft on a Sydney Bank, Out of the above money he spent at my house the sum £23.13.3 between the above mentioned dates, I have in my possession the sum of £12.6.9 belonging to him, the man was never completely under the influence of drink. On 7th January he seemed to be strange in his manner I spoke to him & he did not answer me, I called him into the house, & he asked me for a pint of beer, I told him

Taken and Sworn before me the day
of 190 at
.....
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Ernest
This Deponent* *John Henry Vickery*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a *Hotel Proprietor*

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at *Longway*

that I would not give them any drink, but that I would get Mr. Vickery to make him some soup, He had the soup & was then starting to walk home, I sent the man who is in my employ after him, I told him to tell him not to walk home, as he was not fit, and that we would drive him out on ^{er} ~~Sunday~~ ^{Monday} morning that was the last that I saw of him, He was driven out in the morning & took with him 2 bottles of beer, He came back to the Hotel on Monday evening.

C. W. Vickery

Taken and Sworn before me the *17th* day

of *Jan* 190*2* at *Penang*

Chas Pearson

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

John Macdutton

on his oath saith, I am a

Farmer

residing at

Laverbouche

* Christian and Surname in full.

I knew the deceased Thomas Buchanan about fourteen months that is ~~the~~ term that he was working for me and off on the last occasion he was there 10 weeks, he got a Bank Draft the day before he went to Bickery, I gave him one Sovereign when I left him at the Sand Road, I saw him again about four days after wards at my house the then stopped four days I believe he then went back to Longwarry on the Sunday he returned again on the Monday night, he seemed strange in his manner, On Tuesday he started to work but only worked 3 hours stating that he was too weak to work, On Wednesday he got up at 5 o'clock in the morning I walked about the house I saw him about 9 o'clock I had occasion to go back to the house about eleven o'clock, and I saw the deceased hanging from the rafters in the

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of *January* 1902 at *Bungay*

Bungay

Chas Parsons

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

John Middleton

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

Wash. House I called out to my brothers & we cut him down, and the matter was reported to the police

John Middleton

Taken and Sworn before me the *17th* day

of *January* 1902

at

Bunyip

Chas Pearson

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

William Middleton

on his oath saith, I am a

Farmer

residing at

Labertouche

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have heard the evidence of my brother & the same is quite correct, I did not hear the deceased say anything that would lead me to believe that he contemplated suicide

William Middleton

Taken and Sworn before me the *17th* day

of *January* 190*2*

at *Bumpus*

Chas. Pearson

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Robert Charles Withingtonon his oath saith, I am a duly qualified medical practitionerresiding at Bunyip.* Christian and
Surname in
full.

On Thursday January 11th 1912, at Longwarry, I made a post mortem examination of a body said to be that of Thomas Buchanan.

The body was that of a well nourished man about fifty years of age.

There were marks around the neck, that could have been made by a thin rope or cord. There were no other external marks of violence.

Blood was oozing from the mouth & nostrils.

On internal examination the blood was dark and in a fluid condition.

The heart was normal & empty of blood.

The lungs were congested & full of dark coloured blood. All the other organs were congested, but otherwise normal with the exception of the stomach & bowels which were of a brownish colour with streaks of red, and showing a catarrhal condition. The wind pipe was also red-coloured.

In my opinion death was caused by congestion of the lungs & brain, due to strangulation.

R C Withington.

Taken and Sworn before me the 17th dayof January 1912at Bunyip

Chas Pearson J.P.

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Leonard George Anstee

on h

oath saith, I am a

Police Constable

residing at

Bunyip

* Christian and Surname in full.

On Wednesday 10th January 1912 at 1 pm Mr William Inaalewin reported to me that deceased Thomas Buchanan committed suicide by hanging himself. I proceeded to Mr Inaalewin's farm at Labertouche and found the body of deceased lying on his back on the floor ^{of the back house} with a piece of binder twine of four thicknesses firmly tied around his neck. The twine found is what I took from around deceased neck. It was a double loop with a running knot. The pantry roof is about 8 feet high from the floor. I also found a chair lying on the floor near the body. It bore nail marks similar to the nails in deceased's boots. The deceased apparently stood on the chair and then kicked it away after tying the twine to the ceiling. Deceased had 4/- on his possession. From inquiries made I find that deceased had been drinking for about 3 weeks prior to his death having squandered about £56-15-0. Deceased left a will which is with Mr Dunn Solicitor Warragul.

L G Anstee
M.C. 891

Taken and Sworn before me the 17th day

of January 1912 at Bunyip

Chas Pearson
Coroner.